

left behind it tokens of its existence; even in the adamant rock, it teaches us that the most insignificant of men may leave some little footprint in the sand of time, for eternity to develop.

Trees have a special interest as being the only living links which connect us with remote antiquity. If we go to Windsor, the most ancient residence of English royalty, and there behold the fine old oak which we are informed was a favorite with William the Conqueror, what thoughts arise in the mind as we ponder on the history of this patriarch of more than a thousand years. What stories it could tell us of wars, conflicts and revolutions. Through all the years it has flourished, and even now, we are told, as spring returns, it still puts forth its leaves with freshness and vigor. In the county of Suffolk we beheld in the famous Winfarthing oak, a still more venerable tree, which is at least of fifteen hundred years growth. Each spring it veils with forest foliage the scars which time has made upon its venerable form. We might listen to the stories it could tell, if only it had speech, of the time before Christianity was introduced into England; the cruelty of the Picts and Scots, of the Danes and Saxons; and now, in the providence of God, Augustine came into the country and was the means of resuscitating a flagging religion centuries ago. If we have eyes to see and ears to hear and minds to think, these facts surely would teach us some useful lessons.

We might pass on to Fortingall churchyard, near the entrance of Glenlyon, in my own dear native Wales, and there we should behold the stumps of a veteran, whose branches waved sprightly in the air when the three young men refused to bow down to the golden image which Nebuchadnezzar set up in the plains of Babylon. But why linger here? We might go the cedar of Lebanon, or to the cedar of the Himalayas, and find trees whose life has to be numbered not only by hundreds but by thousands of years. But there are individual trees possessing a higher longevity than all. According to reliable calculations, the baobab, whose girth is over 90 feet, and whose height is correspondingly great, which grows in Africa within the tropics, has an age of 5,232 years, which carries us back, according to received chronology, to 1,045 years before the flood. This giant of the forest stood and waved its branches and annually put forth its foliage, when Noah was preparing the ark. It witnessed the hardness and impenitence of the antediluvian, and through all these ages it has spoken eloquently for God.

Do not these instances of longevity of trees teach us most impressively and unmistakably, lessons of everlasting life and fruitfulness in the people of God? These, and such considerations, my brethren, impart an interest to every tree, to every fern, even to every blade of grass we see. They make all the trees of our woods eloquent with a thousand tongues for God's love, our duty, and the blessings following both. May God of his great goodness, plant us in his paradise above, where our leaf shall not wither, but where we shall flourish in the courts of our God forever and ever.

Elsewhere.

Left home May 30th. Came back July 7th. Had a pleasant trip through Ohio. Visited many friends and relations. Saw some interesting scenes and formed many new acquaintances. I heard much to my edification and received encouragement everywhere.

Was present at the College commencement. "Our boys" did well. "Our girls" could, too. Sorry there were none graduating. Brothers, the next time take your sisters with you. They will appreciate you better. We all desire appreciation. It makes one comfortable.

At Ashland we incorporated the Sisters' Society for Christian Endeavor. Hope our Christian women will be prompt in sending me their names. It takes time for our Secretary to fill out and mail the charters after she receives the orders. Organize during the early part of September. The Society year begins with the first of October. Branches that have already been formed should obtain charters. The more speedy our sisters are the easier 'twill be to put the S. S. C. E. into good shape. Let each church of the brotherhood for-

ward the next five or more women. After receiving the charter they shall provide a Sec'y's book, copy the charter, record their names, elect officers for the year, and adopt by-laws not contrary to the general constitution. The special duty of the charter members is then performed, the branch fully organized, and the society ready to accept application for membership.

Left the home of our children's "Dear Editor" for Covington, where Bro. Ullery made me grateful by lending me his assistance in finding relatives in that place. Fell into the hands of conservatives then, but was so kindly treated that I have desire to revisit them.

Took a caboose for Pleasant Hill. I enjoyed that conveyance. 'Twas out of ordinary in the ordinary. My first ride so. Found the home of Jacob Helmie, my father's cousin, and had a pleasant time with his family. Attended an interesting prayer meeting where the sisters took active part, and was in Sabbath school the morning the Pleasant Hill scholars unanimously voted for the next S. S. convention. Am glad their request was granted.

I was taken by my cousin, Eddie Helmie, to West Milton. Remained there until the previous day to the Fairview convention. Then went down to Dayton to my mother's uncle, Dr. J. W. Walters. Was kindly received. He and his entertaining daughter, Mary, showed me through the beauties of the Soldiers' Home. In the evening we attended the excellent commencement of Miss Arnold's select school. On the morning of the 15th, being too early for the train at Washington C. H., we drove through the city. Called upon Bro. Mason. Found his family well, not including himself. At the water works we were much amused with a fountain that kept forcing up a small ball which was trying to stay down. Uncle explained its philosophy. I believe that Christ is holding us up while the world is dragging us down. Was sorry to leave them so soon.

Met some of the brethren and sisters at the depot, and soon we were in convention. 'Twas a success, to say the least. The accommodation was perfect. Wish our sisters, though, would not always confine their work to that of entertaining. They can do many things well. There is ever some one to love us and appreciate our Christian efforts.

At Fairview I was invited to communion and children's day in the Bear Creek congregation. Am not sorry that I accepted the invitation. Stopped at Zimmermanville en route. Saw the skeleton of the Home Mission church. Had a pleasant drive to Dayton where we, Bro. Brown and myself, I being in his care, were met by Sister M. Lizzie Beeghly, and driven to her home. The love feast was largely attended, the decoration for children's day, elegant, and the exercises passed off in good style. Hope all our boys and girls will have their little entertainments for we grown folks to enjoy. You are our future hope. I shall ever remember the kindness shown me at that place.

While in the depot a little girl was brought me to take to her parents living in Ashland. She made a diverting traveling companion. Am sorry that a part of her happiness, and mine, too, was destroyed by a cinder getting into her eye. But when it came out, again I was greeted with smiles.

Once more I was made at home by our worthy Sec'y, Mrs. A. L. Garber, and her truly kind-hearted mother, Mrs. H. K. Myers. Felt what it is to be welcome. Read the charter of our Christian Endeavor, and saw it copied into a record. Dear sisters, our church has been tardy in granting this privilege. But we will cast no reproaches upon the past. It remains for us to prove ourselves worthy of commendation. We have no time for lamentation and regret. The present is ours. Let us look to it that we do nothing to merit the disapproval which justly belonged to us while idle.

Took the cars again. Got off at West Salem. Went out to Congress. Was introduced to Mrs. P. J. Brown. Found her a desirable woman with whom to visit. Contentedly spent almost a week there. During the time drove out to Fair Haven. Passed a pleasant night at Bro. Miller's. Attend-

ed Sabbath the next morning. Saw a handsome church filled with intelligent pupils. At its close the dear sisters gave me their names for a charter. They will have a large society. Bro. Brown preached one of his best sermons. It encouraged us in our work. Ate dinner with good Bro. Kiefer. In the evening, after a grand day, drove back to Congress.

The following morning went to Wooster. Saw the most beautiful country I had seen in Ohio. Purchased a ticket to Louisville, the home of our earnest Treasurer, Mrs. Josiah Keim. By the mistake of a cheery little newboy, I was directed to Jonas Keim's. But his wife kindly greets a stranger. Soon found the residence of Sister Sarah Keim, and gladly entered into conversation about the S. S. C. E. It was decided that the branches should remit during the months of September and March in order to give our Treasurer time to report through the EVANGELIST some time in October and April. That evening had a lovely drive into the country. Next day had the pleasure of dinner at Bro. John Keim's. Was sorry when the whistle made me to understand that I must leave the Louisville folks.

Came as far east as Columbiana. Thought I would spend a night with Sister Laura Slotter. Was anxious to know her. Introduced myself to a kind looking gentleman in front of a book store containing the sign of D. H. Slotter. I was at the right place. Had a sociable evening with Sister Laura. She is a woman of ability. By request of the sisters in Louisville, obtained permission to write her name upon their charter. She is enthusiastic. Was delighted with music by her accomplished daughter, Alice. 'Twas but to meet and part, though with a precious memory.

Reached Pittsburg, Pa., on the afternoon of the fourth. Misses Mary and Clara Kohne, friends of our family, met me at the depot and took me to their home. In the evening we walked upon the Monongahela bluff to view the exhibition of fire works throughout the cities. It was magnificent, almost surpassing loveliness. I thought that if we had the money they were shooting into the air, creating brilliant lights, we could endow Ashland College and produce brilliant lights, too. Next day we sauntered through the Allegheny park and its beautiful green houses. In the evening Mr. Kohne went with us to No. 4 engine house. We were kindly shown through the building, and all its mysteries explained—how, when the fire alarm strikes, the stable doors fly open as if by magic, and every drilled horse in the town instantly runs to its respective position under the harness, where stand the firemen ready to mount the seats and dash wildly out to the burning buildings. It is all done by electricity. The inventor of this quick process, without our request, struck the detached alarm, and more suddenly, although apprised of their coming, than I could well observe, the horses were at their places by the hose wagon and engine. With regret I left my city friends.

The following day I went aboard the steamer "Adam Jacob's." Had a delightful ride ninety-five miles up the Monongahela. Came to my home. I told not all, but now have used more space than our editor freely gave, and consumed more time than you are willing to grant.

M. M. STERLING.

The Church at Home and Abroad, the monthly missionary organ of the Presbyterian church, has a circulation of 27,000; but last year it did not pay expenses by \$5000. This deficit was paid out of the treasuries of the different Boards represented in the magazine.

Of the 3700 congregations in the Episcopal church, 1500 last year gave nothing for home missions. Alas, alas! The average giving, per member, ranging from 6 cents to \$2.12 in the various dioceses, was 68 cents, an average dragged down of course by thousands giving nothing.

Why shall God's work go begging? Oh the shame of such selfishness as rules even many Christians! Why shall the Boards of the Church be hampered for want of means that God has abundantly given to his people? Why will men thus rob God by withholding tithes and offerings?